

New America School-Las Cruces

Governing Council

Thursday, September 13, 2018

5:00 PM

207 S. Main

Las Cruces NM

Board Members Present: Susie Kimble (President), Fernando Macias (Vice-President), Oscar Juarez

Regrets: Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski (Treasurer), Martha Valdez (Secretary)

Staff Present: Margarita Porter, Dominic DiFelice, Craig Cook, Veronica Gonzales, Christina Montoya

Guests: Dan McMinimee (Superintendent NAS-Colorado), Christy Serna (NAS-LC teacher)

Minutes of the GC

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Susie Kimble
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The mission statement was read by Susie Kimble.
4. Since quorum was not attained, the chair decided to begin the meeting with Public Input. Christy Serna wanted to recommend to the board that both the principal and assistant principal receive the same student achievement pay as teachers for moving the school from a D to a C grade.
5. Dan McMinimee brought greetings from the NAS-Colorado Board and provided an update from the three Colorado NAS schools.
 - His major goals for the year include: student performance, finance stability, staffing retention and advocacy
 - Two of his schools achieved Performance Rating, one Improvement Rating (similar to 2 As and one B)
 - Downsizing the nonprofit office space
 - The move to buy the Thornton school building
 - A rise in PPOR funding including mill override equalization
 - 25 new staff hired
 - Hosting an AEC conference next week
 - Hosting an all NAS-principal meeting in the summer
 - Enrollment ~ 900 students, down about 100 students from last year
6. Quorum was established at 5:35 pm.
7. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Oscar Juarez that the agenda be approved as amended. Votes: Unanimous.
8. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Oscar Juarez that the minutes of August 9, 2018 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
9. There was considerable discussion whether the school should accept students on Long Term Suspension (LTS). The pros and cons were debated. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Oscar Juarez that if the principal or assistant principal denies admission to a student on LTS, that they also indicate to the student and parent that they have the right to appeal the decision to the Governing Council for a final decision. Votes: Nay- Susie Kimble, Yay-Fernando Macias, Yay-Oscar Juarez. Motion passed.
10. In NM, schools receiving an F or D grade must submit a NM-Dash. This also applies if the school principal is participating in the PPE program. The school submitted its Dash on September 1, 2018. It included the areas of focus- PARCC and school culture. It is a 90 day plan. The Dash was presented as information to the GC. No action required.
11. Susie Kimble reiterated comments made during public input to the board members present. She also indicated she had received an email from teachers that the achievement pay be also given to the

principal and assistant principal. Moved by Fernando Macias and seconded by Oscar Juarez that the \$1000 student achievement pay be also given to the principal and assistant principal. Votes: Unanimous.

12. The Finance Committee met prior to the GC meeting. Craig Cook presented the financial report ending 8/31/18. Additional funds received included E-Rate for \$30,889 and instructional materials for \$10,051. The expenditure report indicated a number of lines with negative balances that will be adjusted using a BAR. Nothing of note in the PO report. Craig reported on the planned cut in the lease assistance program. He indicated a change in methodology from a per pupil to a square footage basis. Three BARs were presented. The Finance Committee recommends the financial report and three BARs be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
13. The principal provided a comparison between last year and this year's report cards. Areas of improvement were highlighted. The school increased its score by 16 points. The school was recognized as one of the highest improved state charter schools in ELA in the state.
14. Principal report highlights
 - Enrollment 240
 - CSD site visit December 19th
 - NMSU-MOU collaboration
 - Dona Ana County collaboration with Sonia Ruiz
 - Community Night October 3rd
 - Meeting with Southern Charter Schools August 24th
15. Adjournment 7:02 pm

Next Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday October 13, 2018 at New America School 207 S. Main, Las Cruces, NM.

Signed _____
Martha Valdez, Secretary